

## Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 ABF-01 AID-05 SS-15

L-03 /046 W

----- 112402

R 181603Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 738

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI

SUBJ: FMG REQUISITION OF EMBASSY ANNEX

AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

USIA/IAA FOR DAWSON

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

PASS AID, FAA, FAS/USDA

REF : LAGOS 7641

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE ON MOVE OF ANNEX OFFICES AND ON RENT-FREE OCCUPANCY OF OKOTIE-EBOH AUGUST 15. WE ARE INCLINED TO POSTPONE FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH NEW MEA PERMSEC SANUSI UNTIL AMBASSADOR EASUM'S RETURN. END SUMMARY

2. ON AUGUST 15, EMBASSY DELIVERED FOLLOWING NOTE TO PROTOCOL OFFICE:

3. QUOTE: NO. 511. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND  
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HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE NO. 368 OF

JUNE 24, 1975, AND TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. B1048/75  
OF JULY 12, 1975, REGARDING THE DESIRE OF THE FEDERAL  
MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE THE OFFICE BLOCK AT 1/3  
MOLONEY STREET, LAGOS, WHICH HOUSES THE UNITED STATES  
EMBASSY ANNEX.

4. QUOTE: AS THE MINISTRY WILL RECALL, ITS NOTE UNDER  
REFERENCE STATED THAT IF THE EMBASSY SHOULD MOVE FROM  
MOLONEY STREET AND OCCUPY THE PROPERTY OFFERED IT BY  
THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT AT 10 OKOTIE-EBOH STREET,  
IKOYI, THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED  
TO PERMIT THE EMBASSY TO OCCUPY AND UTILIZE THAT PROPERTY  
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ITS NEW CHANCERY BUILDING ON VICTORIA  
ISLAND IS READY FOR OCCUPANCY. IN DISCUSSIONS  
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR EASUM AND PERMANENT SECRETARY IYALLA  
JULY 11 AND 12, 1975, IT WAS AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR EASUM  
WOULD SEEK UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO BEAR THE  
COST OF THE MOVE AND THAT PERMANENT SECRETARY IYALLA  
WOULD FOR HIS PART SEEK FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
AGREEMENT THAT EMBASSY OCCUPANCY OF THE OKOTIE-EBOH  
PROPERTY UNTIL CONSTRUCTION OF ITS CHANCERY WOULD BE FREE  
FROM PAYMENT OF ANY RENT.

5. QUOTE: PURSUANT TO THE ABOVE, THE EMBASSY ON JULY 31  
COMMENCED THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES FROM MOLONEY STREET.  
ON AUGUST 1, WHEN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I., CROSBY  
MENTIONED TO DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY DOVE-EDWIN THE  
MATTER OF RENT-FREE OCCUPANCY OF THE OKOTIE-EBOH PROPERTY,  
AMBASSADOR DOVE-EDWIN SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS  
NECESSARY TO PURSUE THE QUESTION ANY FURTHER, AS HE WAS  
CONVINCED THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER  
THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INCONVENIENCED ENOUGH AND THE  
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WANT TO PUT A PRICE ON THE FORMER  
MINISTERIAL RESIDENCE PROPERTY AT OKOTIE-EBOH. AMBASSADOR  
DOVE-EDWIN RECOMMENDED THAT THE EMBASSY PROCEED WITH THE  
MOVE AND SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT OF COURSE GIVE A  
FLAT ASSURANCE IN THE MATTER, IT WAS HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT  
THAT THE QUESTION OF RENT WOULD NEVER ARISE. THE EMBASSY IS  
MOVING FORWARD IN THIS SPIRIT AND ON THE BASIS OF THIS ASSESSMENT.  
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6. QUOTE: ALL USAID OFFICES HAVE NOW BEEN MOVED OUT OF  
THE MOLONEY STREET BUILDING, AND THE EMBASSY'S HEALTH UNIT  
SHOULD BE REMOVED DURING THE COMING WEEK. AT THAT POINT,  
TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE EARLIER REMOVAL OF A BUSINESS  
FIRM FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR, FIVE-AND-A-HALF FLOORS OF THE  
MOLONEY STREET BUILDING WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE  
OCCUPANCY BY OFFICES OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

7. QUOTE: PROGRESS IS SIMULTANEOUSLY BEING MADE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE OKOTIE-EBOH PROPERTY FOR OCCUPANCY BY ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION, AND IN THIS CONNECTION THE EMBASSY IS GRATEFUL FOR THE MINISTRY'S SUPPORT IN SECURING THE PRIORITY ATTENTION OF THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EMBASSY'S POWER AND TELEPHONE REQUIREMENTS AT 10 OKOTIE-EBOH. THE EMBASSY IS SENSITIVE TO THE URGENT NEED OF THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR THE BUILDING AT 1/3 MOLONEY STREET, AND IT GIVES THE MINISTRY ITS FIRM ASSURANCE THAT IT IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO EXPEDITE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS AND THAT IT WILL COMPLETE THE MOVE AND OCCUPY THE PROPERTY AT 10 OKOTIE-EBOH AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

8. QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE.

9. COMMENT: AS WE APPEAR TO HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS ON THIS, I BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE JUST AS WELL TO HOLD UP DISCUSSION ON THE RENT-FREE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER AMBASSADOR EASUM'S RETURN AUGUST 30. THE MATTER CAN THEN BE MADE THE OCCASION FOR AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR EASUM AND MEA PERMSEC SANUSI. IF AMBASSADOR CONCURS, I WILL TRY TO SET IT UP FOR FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.  
CROSBY

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## Message Attributes

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